

MICHIGAN FORESTERS LICENSING GUIDE

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1. HOW THE PROFESSION IS ORGANIZED IN MICHIGAN

OVERVIEW

This guide looks at things that you as a foreign-educated forester must do to become eligible for licensing in Michigan.

REGULATION OF THE FORESTRY PROFESSION IN MICHIGAN

The Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL) within the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) regulates forestry in Michigan. Before you can be eligible for licensure, you must meet certain education and experience requirements.

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING

The process for obtaining a license as a forester in Michigan is as follows:

I. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IN MICHIGAN

To become a licensed forester in Michigan, a person must have met the following requirements:

- Be of good moral character.
- Graduate from an accredited university or college.
- Possess 2 or more years of experience in forestry work.

II. FORESTER APPLICATION AND REQUIREMENTS

To begin your application, go to BPL's website at www.michigan.gov/foresters to download the [Foresters Registration Application](#). You may complete the application on our website; however, you will need to print the application and mail it to the address on the form with the required \$90 or \$130 fee.

A. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Any person possessing a foreign degree should have an evaluation performed by an evaluation service to help in determining the educational requirements have been satisfied.

3. EXAMINATIONS

No examination required.

4. TIME AND COSTS

To be successfully licensed as a forester in Michigan depends on a number of factors, including:

- The completeness of your educational records
- Your ability to complete the two years of forestry work experience
- Your free time and how much you can afford to spend

We provide two hypothetical scenarios to show just some of the variety of results that immigrant professionals may find when they seek to become licensed in Michigan. Please consider these scenarios as two examples out of many possibilities. Please understand that individual experiences may vary.

TWO HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIOS FOR OBTAINING A FORESTERS LICENSE:

Step	More Efficient Scenario <i>Approximate Time and Cost</i>	Less Efficient Scenario <i>Approximate Time and Cost</i>
1 Degree Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your university documents arrive to the credentialing organization within one month• 2 months + \$400	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It takes 4 months for your documents to arrive at the evaluation service• 2 months + \$400
2 Satisfy Education Deficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You possess a degree from an accredited college or university	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your degree equivalency lacks 12 courses (36 credit hours)• 3 years + \$10,000
3 Satisfy work experience requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You possess the appropriate work experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You do not possess any work experience in forestry• 2 years
4 Apply for a Foresters license	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BPL approves your application within 1 month of receipt• 1 month + \$90	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BPL approves your application within 1 month of receipt• 1 month + \$90
	More Efficient Total <i>About 3 months + \$490</i>	Less Efficient Total <i>About 5 years + \$10,490</i>

5. OTHER CAREERS

Other types of work related to the forestry profession include, forest research and forest consulting. Foresters may also work at the state government level, work for conservation organizations, or teach at colleges and universities.

6. BEYOND LICENSING

MAINTAINING LICENSURE

All forester licenses on May 31 of the even-numbered years. Licensees will receive a renewal notice approximately 90 days prior to the expiration date. You must renew the license online. The cost to renew is \$80. If your license expires, you will be required to apply for relicensure to reactivate your license.

LICENSING MOBILITY (RECIPROCITY)

Michigan does not have a reciprocal agreement with any other state. However, a license may be granted to an applicant who has met substantially equal requirements in another state; otherwise, the applicant may have to obtain additional training or take an examination to meet requirements.

7. IMPORTANT LINKS

LICENSING AND REGULATION

- The [Bureau of Professional Licensing](#) is the state regulatory agency for the forester profession in Michigan. The website specifically for the forester profession is www.michigan.gov/foresters, which includes links to the forester profession's law and administrative rules, applications, and frequently asked questions.
- Contact information: Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, BPL-Licensing Division, PO Box 30670, Lansing MI 48909
- Telephone Number 517-241-9288; Fax: 517-373-7179 Email: bplhelp@michigan.gov